(i) Government has sanctioned a revival package of Rs. 1024.77 crore during the year 2004-05 to support VRS expenditure equity infusion, induction of new Technology products.

(ii) Reservation of 30% of orders by BSNL and MTNL towards ITI.

(iii) Advance payment of 75% of the purchase order value against the reserved quota orders.

(iv) Assistance by way of Government guarantee to raise loan/bonds from market.

Post offices in the country

3155. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their numbers;

(c) if so, the State-wise/location-wise details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Details of post offices in different postal circles in the country are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. Hence State-wise/location-wise details are not readily available. As and when a location is found to justify all the three norms, action is taken to open a post office. The policy directives in the 10th Plan require new post offices to be opened only through redeployment of existing manpower, and also for the existing network to be rationalized so as to optimize resources. Expansion of the postal network is therefore being done by relocating existing Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices/Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices and single and double handed Departmental Sub Offices in urban areas which do not fulfil the distance norms to needy areas which justify a post office.

Statement

Circle-wise Post Offices in the country as on 31.3.2004

Sl. No.	Circle	Total No. of Post offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16197
2.	Assam	4008
3.	Bihar	9055
4.	Chhattisgarh	5830
5.	Delhi	580
6.	Gujarat	8967
	Daman & Diu	19
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38
7.	Haryana	2649
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2780
9.	J & K	1687
10.	Jharkhand	3049
11.	Karnataka	9909
12.	Kerala	5065
	Lakshdweep	10
	Mahe	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5665
14.	Maharashtra	12721
	Goa	259
15.	North East	
	Arunachal Pradesh	306
	Manipur	698
	Meghalaya	493

Sl. No.	Circle	Total No. of Post offices
	Mizoram	404
	Nagaland	328
	Tripura	716
16.	Orissa	8175
17.	Punjab	3907
	Chandigarh	50
18.	Rajasthan	10453
19.	Tamil Nadu	12101
	Pondicherry	95
20.	Uttar Pradesh	17666
21.	Uttranchal	2722
22.	West Bengal	8752
	Andman and Nicobar Island	101
	Sikkim	210
	TOTAL:	155669

Pilot Project in Gujarat

3156. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the BSNL Pilot Project for paperless operations in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any CAG objection in this matter;

(c) what action BSNL and DoT has taken in reference to CAG objections;

(d) whether there is any CVC inquiry issued; and

(e) whether all the officers involved in the scam have been transferred or not?